

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-readable medium containing code which when executed causes a network device to implement a method of managing a configuration of at least a group of nodes comprising:

an input code, capable of receiving a set of model configuration files adapted to create and configure at least partially a data model, wherein said data model defines hardware entities and logical entities for a group of nodes;

a generator code, capable of generating a first node data in cooperation with said at least partially configured data model;

an install code, capable of installing a specific environment in a machine having at least partially the configuration of the nodes of the group in order to create an archive object using said first node data;

configuration code, enabling a user to complete the configuration of said data model dynamically and generate a second node data; and

said install code, further capable of installing a specific environment in said group of nodes in order to create a deployable object from said archive object and said second node data and to configure nodes of said group of nodes in deploying said deployable object.

2. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein said second node data is stored in a repository enabling the re-creation of a deployable object.

3. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 2, wherein said second node data comprises operating system files and service configuration files for said group of nodes.

4. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein said first node data  
5 is stored in a repository enabling the re-creation of said archive object.

5. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 4, wherein said second node data is stored in said repository enabling the re-creation of said archive object and said deployable object.

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6. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 4, wherein said first node data comprises software data and a software install script for said group of nodes.

7. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 6, wherein said install code is  
15 further adapted to create a configured archive object in adding user defined configuration data and user install scripts to said archive object.

8. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 7, wherein said install code is further adapted to create a new configured object in adding new user defined configuration  
20 data and new user install scripts to an already configured archive object.

9. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 7, wherein said install code is further adapted to configure nodes of said group of nodes, to reboot said nodes, to configure said user defined configuration data and to run said nodes.

5           10. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 7, wherein said install code is further adapted to configure nodes of said group of nodes, to perform a first reboot of said nodes, to configure said user defined configuration data, to perform a second reboot of said nodes and to run said nodes.

10           11. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein said input code is further adapted to receive said set of model configuration files comprising a logical configuration file for said group of nodes and a hardware configuration file, and is further adapted to receive a network configuration file in order to complete said data model.

15           12. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein said data model as at least partially configured comprises a hardware model linked to a logical model for said group of nodes.

            13. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein the completed  
20 data model comprises a hardware model linked to a logical model for said group of nodes and to a network model.

14. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein said data model is organized in classes.

15. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein said machine is a  
5 prototype machine having at least partially said configuration of nodes of said group of nodes for which an archive object is created.

16. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein said deployable  
10 object is a deployable flash archive.

17. The computer-readable medium according to Claim 1, wherein said archive object  
is a flash archive.

18. A method of managing a configuration of at least a group of nodes comprising:  
15 receiving a set of model configuration files;  
configuring at least partially a data model as a function of said model configuration  
files, wherein said data model defines hardware entities and logical entities for said group of  
nodes;  
generating a first node data as a function of said at least partially configured data  
20 model;  
installing a specific environment in a machine having at least partially the  
configuration of said group of nodes in order to create an archive object using said first node  
data;

completing the configuration of said data model dynamically and generate a second node data; and

installing said specific environment in said group of nodes in order to create a deployable object from said archive object and said second node data and in order to  
5 configure the nodes of said group of nodes in deploying said deployable object.

19. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said first node data is stored in a repository enabling the recreation of said archive object.

10 20. The method according to Claim 19, wherein said first node data comprises software data and a software install script for said group of nodes.

21. The method according to Claim 19, wherein said second node data is store in said repository enabling recreation of said deployable object.

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22. The method according to Claim 20, wherein said second node data comprises operating system files and service configuration files for said group of nodes.

23. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said installing said specific  
20 environment in said machine having at least partially the configuration of said group of nodes further comprises a configured archive object by adding user defined configuration data and user install script to said archive object, said configured archive object being used to create said deployable object.

24. The method according to Claim 23, wherein said installing said specific environment in said machine having at least partially the configuration of said group of nodes further comprises creating a new configured object by adding new user defined configuration data and new user install scripts to said already configured archive object.

25. The method according to Claim 23, wherein installing said specific environment in said group of nodes further comprises configuring nodes of said group of nodes, rebooting said nodes, configuring said user defined configuration data and running said nodes.

26. The method according to Claim 23, wherein installing said specific environment in said group of nodes further comprises configuring nodes of said group of nodes, performing a first reboot of said nodes, configuring said user defined configuration data, performing a second reboot of said nodes and running said nodes.

27. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said set of model configuration files comprises a logical configuration file for said group of nodes and a hardware configuration file.

28. The method according to Claim 27, further comprising:  
receiving a network configuration file; and  
completing configuration said data model as a function of said network configuration file.

29. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said at least partially configured said data model comprises a hardware model linked to a logical model for said group of nodes.

5           30. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said completed data model comprises a hardware model linked to a logical model for said group of nodes and to a network model.

10           31. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said data model is organized in classes.

15           32. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said machine is a prototype machine having at least partially the configuration of nodes of said group of nodes for which an archive object is created.

            33. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said deployable object is a deployable flash archive.

            34. The method according to Claim 18, wherein said archive object is a flash archive.